

REMARKS

Review and reconsideration on the merits are requested.

Formalities

Applicants appreciate the Examiner acknowledging receipt of the single priority document and approving the drawings.

Election/Restrictions

The Examiner is correct.

Claim Suggestion

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's suggestion, but "floating culture" is a single technical term representing a type of culture method. Here, the embryonic stem cells are cultured while the cells are floating on a medium. To attempt to clarify this, the phrase has been amended to "floating-culture".

It is believed that the language is now clear, but if the Examiner still finds the language objectionable, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned at the later given telephone exchange.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claim 2 has been canceled, mooting the rejection. With respect to claim 1 containing ellipses, the ellipses are canceled.

With respect to claim 3 being rejected because it is dependent upon a claim that does not overcome the deficiencies of the independent claim, since the rejection of claim 1 has been overcome, it is believed that claim 3 is no longer properly rejected.

Withdrawal of all rejections is requested.

Claim Amendments

Claim 1 is amended by incorporating the subject matter of claim 2 therein with further limitation to avoid the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112.

Specifically, the compound forming the coating layer has been limited to a copolymer of monomer (M) represented by formula (2) and glycidyl (meth)acrylate, and the substituents in formula (2) have further been limited. Support for the amendment is found at page 9, lines 5-18 of the specification, Synthesis Examples 2 and 3, and Examples 1-2 and 1-3.

Claim 1 has also been amended by limiting to define that the coating layer is chemically bonded to the vessel surface. Support for the amendment is found at page 10, lines 21-24 of the specification.

Claim 2 has been cancelled.

Claim 3 is maintained.

New claim 11 defines the monomer (M) as 2-(methacryloyloxy)ethyl-2'-
(trimethylammonio)ethylphosphate. Support for this amendment is found on page 8, lines 3-4 of the specification.

New claim 12 corresponds to claim 1, and defines the coating layer as formed from a copolymer of monomer (M) represented by formula (2), glycidyl (meth)acrylate, and also another monomer selected from a particular group. Support for the amendment is found at page 9, lines 5-18 of the specification, Synthesis Example 3, and Example 1-3.

New claims 13 and 14 correspond to claims 3 and 4, respectively.

The Prior Art

Sawada et al (published on-line Feb. 2003, hereafter referred to as Sawada).

The Rejection

Claims 1-3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Sawada.

The Examiner's position is set forth in the Action and will not be repeated here except as necessary to an understanding of Applicants traversal which is now presented.

Traversal

The Examiner points out that a portion of the vessel taught in Sawada is coated with a copolymer that is poly (MPC-co-BMA) (PMB).

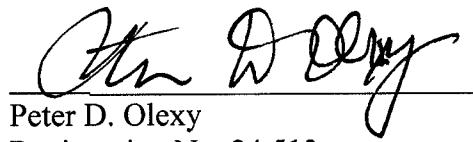
However, as now defined in amended claim 1 and claim 12, the coating layer of the present vessel is formed from a copolymer essentially including glycidyl (meth)acrylate as a component. With glycidyl (meth)acrylate, the coating layer formed from the copolymer is chemically bonded to the vessel surface. Specifically, as described on page 10, lines 21-24 and Examples 1-2 and 1-3 of the specification, the epoxy group on the copolymer prepared using glycidyl (meth)acrylate reacts with a carboxyl group formed on the vessel surface, for example, by means of corona treatment, to form a durable coating layer on the vessel surface.

In contrast, Sawada is silent about a copolymer including glycidyl (meth)acrylate as a component. The coating layer formed from the copolymer of Sawada is not chemically bonded to the vessel surface, but is merely physically bonded to the vessel surface.

Withdrawal is requested.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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